DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 131 475 CS 203 057

TITLE	RX for Instant Poets. Publication No. GC-22.
INSTITUTION	Los Angeles City Schools, Calif. Div. of Instructional Planning and Services.
REPORT NO	GC-22
PUB DATE	74
NOTE	13p.
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Creative Writing; Elementary Secondary Education; Haiku; Instructional Materials; *Poetry; *Versification

ABSTRACT

This booklet describes 22 simple verse patterns which may be used with children at all grade levels to encourage imaginative use of language, sense of form, and written self-expression. Among the patterns are the following: concrete or visual poem, found poem, formal cinquain, acrostic verse, haiku, rhymed riddle, impressionistic poem, terse verse, Mother Goose parody, and limerick. Included are examples of student verse. (JM)

****
* Documents acquired by ERIC include many informal unpublished *
* materials not available from other sources. ERIC makes every effort *
* to obtain the best copy available. Nevertheless, items of marginal *
* reproducibility are often encountered and this affects the quality *
* of the microfiche and hardcopy reproductions ERIC makes available *
* via the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). EDRS is not *
* responsible for the quality of the original document. Reproductions *
* supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original. *
****

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

Rx for Instant POETS

ED131475

CS 203 057

LOS ANGELES CITY SCHOOLS
Instructional Planning Division
Publication No. SC-22
1974

2

Copyright ©

1974

Los Angeles Unified School District

FOREWORD

For the teacher who wishes to encourage the imaginative use of language, a sense of form, and written self-expression, the following simple verse patterns lend themselves readily to use with young people at all grade levels, from elementary school through senior high school. However, the teacher is cautioned to use technical terms sparingly. Each idea can be quickly ingested when the teacher reads several sample selections to the class, writes a few examples on the chalkboard, and allows members of small groups the time to compose some verse together.

Grateful acknowledgment is made to each of the many teachers and students whose work appears herein. The examples remain anonymous in order that no contributor's name shall be overlooked.

ROGER HYNDMAN
Instructional Specialist

APPROVED:

NORMAN H. ROSSELL
Assistant Superintendent
Instructional Planning Division

Rx FOR VERSE

Concrete or Visual Poem

Concentration on a word or words in which form becomes as essential as meaning; words reduced to their letters (see) or syllables (hear); reduced language in a new relationship to space (the page) and time (linear measure); an object to be perceived rather than just read; a "picture poem."

Found Poem

Words, phrases, sentences that are discovered in public communications, such as advertisements, menus, signs, reports. They can be arranged into lines and stanzas that form fresh commentaries on or insights into life.

Word Cinquain

First line - One word that names the subject.
Second line - Two words that define or describe the subject.
Third line - Three words that express action associated with the subject.
Fourth line - Four words that express a personal attitude toward the subject.
Fifth line - One word that sums up, restates, or supplies a synonym for the subject.

Formal Cinquain

Five lines, each line adding two syllables and further meaning to the subject.
Syllable pattern is 2-4-6-8-2.

Diamanté

First line - A noun. (Seventh line will suggest its opposite or a changed form.)
Second line - Two adjectives describing the noun.
Third line - Three participles (-ing or -ed) indicating action related to the noun.
Fourth line - Four nouns related to subject; second two nouns begin to shift meaning.
Fifth line - Three participles indicating change or development of subject.
Sixth line - Two adjectives continuing idea of change.
Seventh line - A noun that is the opposite of noun in line one.
The lines are placed on the page to form a diamond pattern.

Acrostic Verse	Subject is first word of first line; second letter of subject becomes first letter of first word in second line; third letter of subject becomes first letter of first word in third line, etc. Each line contributes further detail and emotional tone.
Nominal or Auto-Acrostic	The author uses the letters of his name to form the first letter of each line. In stanza one, the first name is used; the lines consist of adjectives or full phrases that reveal the personal self. Stanza two, using the surname, describes the public image. Can also be used to describe a well-known personality.
Clerihew	Four-line form consisting of two couplets (a-a, b-b) that offer a humorous view of a well-known person. The name must be a part of one of the end rhymes.
Haiku	Seventeen syllables arranged in three lines of 5-7-5 syllables. Contains direct or indirect reference to nature and/or season; focuses on a particular object or a present event; implies a special, significant moment.
Tanka	Thirty-one syllables arranged in five lines of 5-7-5-7-7 syllables. Similar to haiku in content.
Rhymed Riddle	Subject can be any commonplace object: rope, hammer, TV set, etc. Two lines with end rhyme of a-a; four lines of either a-a-b-b or a-b-a-b.
Catalogue Rhyme	Rhymed arrangement of things students like or dislike; these things are associated with one of the senses, seasons, or holidays, etc.
Rhyming Tale	Telling an original story or anecdote, or retelling a favorite tale, fable, or legend in rhyme.

Impressionistic Poem	Subject is a word, a memory, etc., that has emotional connotations. Impressions -- words and phrases of color, sound, feeling -- are recorded as quickly as they occur; then they are arranged in lines that create a consistent image.
"Starters"	An opening phrase or line that may be completed by any statement of imaginative quality. "Starters" that have sparked creative expression are "I wish . . ." and "I used to be . . . But now . . ."
Terse Verse	Two-line verse, usually composed of only two rhyming words that summarize a thought or act. The title often serves as a lengthy and mock-serious introduction.
Rhyming Synonym/Antonym	A couplet in which the first line consists of a list of synonyms (or antonyms) for the title; the second line offers a personal comment on their use or meaning.
ABC Lines	The first letter of the first word on each line follows the order of the alphabet. Can begin and/or end at any letter in the alphabet. Can form complete sentences(s) or simply related words or phrases.
Mother Goose Parody	Familiar patterns, phrases, and/or characters from nursery rhymes, used to comment humorously on contemporary situations or to recreate a nonsensical or ridiculous event.
Limerick	Five-line verse with a rhyme scheme of a-a-b-b-a. Lines 1, 2, and 5 have three stresses (an iamb and 2 anapests); lines 3 and 4 have only two heavy stresses (iamb and anapest). Humor and bounce are more important than strict meter.
Sententious Simile	A sentence arranged into four or five lines, consisting of (1) a noun plus modifiers; (2) a verb, preferably active, plus object or prepositional phrase; (3) a simile; and (4-5) a participial phrase providing personal reaction.

Five W's

Five-line form in which each line contributes a vivid detail that answers the question who, what, when, where, or why. The order of detail and the use of end rhymes are optional.

SOME EXAMPLES OF STUDENT VERSE

Concrete Poem

```
    c                   e
e   i       b       z   z       b
l   r           r   e   z   e   r
    c               e       e       e
```

(See and hear)

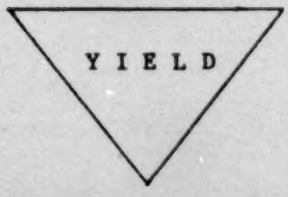
CUPCUPCUP
CUPCUPC
UPCUP
CUP
SaucersauceR

(See)

Found Poem

Facts,
like certain moths
and flying ants,
lay their eggs
and die.
(From John Hersey)

TAHITIAN FLING
A zesty taste treat
that wafts you to Paradise.
Fresh strawberry ice cream
and lime sherbet surfing
on half a pineapple
with white caps of whipped cream
and orange crunch.
Good enough to make
the natives restless.
(Found on paper place mat)



(Street sign)

Word Cinquain

Jeans
Soft, blue
Aging, fading, clinging
Second skin for nonplastic people
Levis!

Hatred
Deadly, destructive
Stirs, simmers, scalds
More fatal than flame
Rancor

Formal Cinquain

Flowers
Are bursts of warmth,
Bringing sunshine to me,
Brightening my day. I love
Flowers.

Gently,
Gasping for breath,
Caring for human life,
Hope renders the world resounding
Pleasures.

5

Diamanté

Car
Shiny, new
Revving, roaring, racing
Driver, girl -- red light, officer
Speeding, skidding, screeching
Battered, bloody
Wreck

Youth
Alive, alert
Playing, seeking, dreaming
Idealist, activist, realist, cynic
Planning, striving, deceiving
Wise, worldly
Age

Acrostic Verse

Birds are graceful,
Idle and free,
Riding the skies;
Direction is no object,
Sailing through the sky, forever free!

Lions,
I hear, are the kings
Of beasts; but I am
Not afraid as long as they
Stay in a cage.

Nominal and Auto-Acrostic

Daring as a race driver
A superstar at basketball
Never a poor sport
Now he is ten years old
Yellow and gold are his favorite colors.

Stephanie is,
To
Everyone that is,
Peculiar and
Has been
All the time.
Noisy is she
In school.
Every day it's yap yap yap.

JOHANNES KEPLER

Kepler was an astronomer,
Even a mathematician,
Politics he had nothing to do with,
Lectures were his kind of thing.
Even fame he didn't like much,
Really though, all in all,
I guess he was a genius.

CYRANO DE BERGERAC

Courageous
Yea, and
Resolute; yet, reflective, too.
Aesthetic,
Noble and
Original!

Clerihew

When rugged John Wayne
Leads the wagon train,
The badmen scatter
To his bullets' patter.

Albert Einstein
Genius at nine,
Did what none dared:
Invented $E=mc^2$.

Haiku

Little bug crawling
On sidewalk so wide and hot
When will you rest, bug?

Lilies are growing
Prettily in the sunlight
Next to the window.

Tanka

Dreams silently stalk
Striking on cold and dark nights
Quickly here and gone
Leaving their shadows behind
To darken the light of day.

The twilight moves in
Evening settles on the sea
A fish leaps upward
The sound of its splash muted
By the thick blanketing fog.

Rhymed Riddle

Running around the floor on his face,
Doing his job with the most distaste.
Grumbling and mumbling while working away,
"Thank goodness this doesn't happen all day!"
(Vacuum cleaner)

I am essential to the butcher;
all I do is chew.
People eat my produce; I'll
chew fast for you.
(Meat grinder)

Catalogue Rhyme

I LIKE TV . . .

A.M. or P.M. I'll turn on the set
For Barbara Walters or Carol Burnett,
Abernethy, Brinkley, or Walter Cronkite;
Push the button and make the screen bright
With Mod Squad's capers or Archie's quotes,
Weather predictions or precinct votes,
Rams and Lakers and New York Knicks,
Hammy wrestlers for extra kicks,
Happy commercials in fast or slow motion,
Making a pitch for beer or lotion,
Daytime or nighttime, so much to see:
That's why I simply adore TV!

CHILDREN DO SO MANY THINGS

they sit
they soil
they pout
they shout

they swim
they ride bikes
they eat
they sweep

they weep
they leap
they jump
they hide

they ride
they fly
they play games
they read

they GRUMBLE

Rhyming Tale

THE FIGHT

Back in the old days when men were quite rough,
There was a young man who thought he was tough;
He strode into town and went straight to the bar,
Which was really the worst in the town by far.
"I shoot faster than you," said he to everyone near.
"Yes," said the people, all quaking in fear.
But a man pushed in from the back of the crowd,
"I'm not afraid," said the man very loud.
"We'll see about that," said our man with a gleam in his eye.
The crowd all pushed back for they knew he was sly.
"I'm gonna kill you," said our man with a sneer;
Said the other, "There's room for only one of us here!"
"Oh, no!" said our man, and the people laughed in fun
For he had brought his son's toy water gun!

Impressionistic Poem

RAIN

It tickles my nose,
And it wets my toes.
Rumbles and flashes
Of thunder that crashes,
Everything outside is weepy
While I'm inside so sleepy,
A lullaby against the
Windowpane.
I love the rain.

ONE DARK STREET

One dark street
Lonely in the night,
A street post rolling, flickering light,
A sleeping old tramp, on a sidewalk bench,
With a sigh and hum . . .

The dark, clear sky,
Over rusty old buildings.
Glittering stars, dirty street,
One dark street . . .

"Starters"

I wish
I were a flower
So I could make
The world more beautiful.

I used to be a peach tree
Luscious and blushing pink,
But now I'm a crabapple
Stunted and raging red.

I wish
the world was a single ocean
all fires extinguished
all creatures floating peacefully
In a silent watery kingdom.

I used to be a piece of ore
Buried in the sand.
But now I am a rocket ship
Suspended in space.

Terse Verse

MARK SPITZ'S COMMENT
AFTER DRINKING MILK
"Swift
Lift."

WHAT THE FARMER SAID
WHILE TRYING TO MILK
HIS COW
"Now
Cow!"

Rhyming Synonym/Antonym

FAT

Fleshy, thick, obese, or plump:
In any case, the frump's a lump!

DULL

Sharp, incisive, keen, acute:
The cutting-word can execute.

ABC Lines

DREAM GIRL

Alluringly
Blonde,
Caressable,
Distressable,
Exciting
Felicia:
Glamorous,
Humorous,
Inimitable -
Just so!
Kind?
Loyally!
Moody?
Never!
Observe her:
Pulse-
Quickening,
Really
Sensational,
Truly
Unusual,
Vivaciously
Winsome,
eXtraordinarily
Youthfully
Zestful.

REHEARSAL

All together now,
Begin:
Cornets -
Drums -
Everyone -
Fortissimo!

Mother Goose Parody

WOMEN'S LIB

Little Ms. Fonda,
Sat on a Honda,
Eating her yogurt and cheese;
When an Easy Rider
Sat down beside her
She gave him a healthy squeeze.

SCIENTIST'S SONG

Higgledy, piggledy, my spacelab
Is better than a Yellow Cab;
Astronauts use its unique facilities
More easily than the public utilities;
Of course, there's a costly national
tab
For higgledy, piggledy, my spacelab.

Limerick

There once was a stupid old cow,
Tried swimming but didn't know how.
She jumped in a pool,
And sank like a fool.
The bottom is where she is now.

Don't ever get fooled by the smile
Of Willie, the green crocodile.
In a minute he'll greet you,
Two more and he'll eat you,
With that grin on his face all the while!

Sententious Simile

The silver jet
Soars across the sky
Like a giant dragonfly,
Trailing wisps of white,
Taking my dreams with him.

A single glowing ash
Burst into crimson flame
Like an angry phoenix' flight,
Rising on wrathful wings,
Razing the cool growth of centuries.

Five W's

The tiny silken terrier
Surveys the wares of luxury stores
Most every day from one to five
On crooked throne of elbow bone.
Rich ladies are lonesome, too.

A golden carp of brightest hue
From banks of treetops leaps to view.
Blue April afternoon invites
To park or meadow schools of kites.
Don't you feel the challenge, too?